

## Election Reminders

While Tuesday's spotlight will be focused on the spirited contest for the Democratic convention delegates being waged by Senators Kennedy and McCarthy, local voters should not forget the very important duty they have to punch their ballots for major local offices.

In earlier editions, the Press-Herald has recommended the re-election of Supervisors Burton W. Chace and Kenneth Hahn, and of District Attorney Evelle J. Younger.

Supervisors Chace and Hahn, both veterans of public service, have served well and productively as supervisors. Both have earned the support of voters in their bids for re-election.

District Attorney Younger, who left the Superior Court bench four years ago to become the county's chief law enforcement officer, has become one of the nation's most respected leaders in that field. A former FBI agent and judge, Younger is professionally equipped for his assignment, and has been one of the best in that office in county history. His re-election Tuesday is not only deserved, it is vital to the continued emphasis this community has placed on reasoned law enforcement.

Locally, the Press-Herald also has recommended the election of George R. Perkovich Jr. to a new term as judge of the South Bay Municipal Court. Judge Perkovich has strong backing of the legal profession in the community he serves and has performed with distinction in one of the busiest courts of the Southland.

## The Price of Security

Sweden is considered an advanced welfare state. In Sweden, the government "takes care" of you from birth to death. But the bill for this kind of care comes high. Those who live in the delusion that government provides free services will find it instructive to compare the taxes paid by U.S. citizens against those paid by Swedish citizens.

In the United States, which so far is only partly welfareized, taxes take about 22 per cent of a single person's income and about 18 per cent of the income of a married couple without children. Social-welfare Sweden is the highest taxed nation in Europe. Total taxes paid by the average worker in Sweden now exceed 40 per cent of his income, according to U.S. News & World Report. Swedish people in the medium bracket—incomes of about \$8,000 a year—pay well over 50 per cent if all taxes are added up.

No, the security of the welfare state is not free. Moreover, it is provided at the expense of liberty, for certainly there can be little liberty where people have lost the power of decision over their productive efforts.

## Things One Remembers

No electronic or mechanical contrivance of the human mind will ever be 100 per cent reliable. I had an interesting illustration of this as a passenger on an airline departing from Chicago recently. The flight appeared to be delayed at the end of the runway for an unconscionably long time along with other aircraft. Finally the pilot announced that traffic flow had been disrupted by a breakdown in radar facilities. After more than an hour, we were cleared for takeoff. Thus, a breakdown in a vital electronic facility, owned and operated by the federal government at one of the busiest air terminal areas in the world where the safety of hundreds of lives at any given moment depends upon 100 per cent reliability, demonstrated the inevitable fallibility of man.

At present, a proposal called the Electric Power Reliability Act is before Congress. Its political advocates strive to sell the people on the idea that more governmental regulation can increase the reliability of electric service, although the record of the electric industry in this respect comes within some two hundredths of one per cent of perfection. It has been pointed out that further government control of the investor-owned electric industry, of the kind envisaged, would slow industry progress and result in less reliability.

Before attempting to legislate perfection in the electric industry, which operates at a level of dependability that already approaches perfection, why don't the regulators seek perfection, if such a thing is possible, in the government operation of vital electronic aids on the airways.—By R. D. Hofer in the *Industrial News Review*.

## ROYCE BRIER

# Many Great Strategists Have Their Fuzzy Moments

Read Admiral H. E. Kimmel, retired, who died recently at the age of 86, was at early breakfast in Hawaii Dec. 7, 1941. So was Lieutenant General W. C. Short, his opposite in the Army.

Neither knew a Japanese fleet with bombers was hard by, nor did naval headquarters in Washington, nor President Roosevelt. In fact, we had cracked the Japanese code, but hadn't bothered to tell Kimmel or Short.

Both commanders were the objects of extensive investigation, and at one stage were charged with "dereliction of duty." But there were plenty of red necks concentrated in Washington,

and they never had the gall to make outright scapegoats of Kimmel and Short.

Kimmel, of course, never had a chance to prove if he was an effective fleet commander. But you never can tell. Possibly Short, had he been in Manila, would not have left his bombers as sitting ducks on Clark Field, as did General MacArthur.

One blunder, one moment of inattention or confusion, will usually cook a war commander. Many of our American heroes hailed as minor Lord Nelsons or Hannibals, exhibited some fuzzy periods at the beginning of their careers.

## Doesn't Anyone Have Faith In The Dollar?



HERB CAEN SAYS:

# Sleuths Go All the Way In Hunt for Bare Facts

Item suitable for inclusion in a time capsule: The San Mateo County Sheriff's office, exercised by cavorting nudies at a local beach, now has plainclothes nudies stationed there on the weekends. For this we have the solemn word of the county manager. . . . Adman Howard Gossage is relieved that the cut-off date for heart transplants is around 50: "One of the few remaining joys of middle age is the knowledge that we won't be cut-up like chicken parts." . . . S. P.'s newest multi-million dollar industry must be the Steve McQueen film, "Bullitt," which has been shooting for weeks and still has a few weeks to go. The budget has now passed the \$5 million mark (and climbing). . . . Latest status symbol for the Financial District set: an attache case containing a telephone and all sorts of sophisticated Circuitry that enables the carrier to make a call from just about anywhere. Called the Commander 701, it sells for \$2140, or \$46 a month on lease. About 200 are in action already, even though the case only has room for two skinny sandwiches or one fat one.

Caenetti: Being a drama critic isn't all glamorous first nights and aisle seats. Stanley Eichelbaum of the San Francisco Examiner, for instance, has a broken nose, conferred by an amateur critic. . . . Welcome aboard: Cass Canfield, boss of the mighty Harper & Row publishing empire, has hopped aboard the Richard Brautigan bandwagon after reading his "Trout Fishing in America," the most charming book by a San Franciscan since the early-whirly Saroyans. But would success spoil Richard Brautigan? R.B.: "I should be ever so pleased to find out." . . . Musical note: The Jefferson Airplane's next album will feature a cover photo of Brumma, Sen. Bob Kennedy's big black Labrador—the one that goes around biting people, even Democrats. However, the dog who has been campaigning with the Senator is Freckles, a setter. It jumped aboard a plane when Bob was leaving New York, and he didn't have the heart to kick it off, thereby sewing up the dog-lovers' vote. Poor Checkers.

Pacific Tell & Tell: The phone strike provided one sight out of 1984 last week: a lone striker picketing a building that contained naught but a computer, operating as usual. . . . I don't know how he finds out these things, but Chase Webb discovers that the term "Acapulco Gold" has been registered in Washington—in anticipation of the day marijuana is legalized. The TV commercial oughta be something. . . . The Army still has a language all its own. Pvt. Billy Gann, on a hunger strike at the S.F. Presidio Army Base to protest the war, wasn't in solitary confinement, sir, he was in "administrative segregation." In Billy's case, an all-black room measuring three paces by one. Still, it's an improvement over his previous "segregation": an all-white room with a light burning 24 hours a day.

Stuffed shirtism: In a recent piece on the '06 firequake, I wondered what had become of that special S.F. spirit, and of the many answers rec'd, I like best this one from the pioneer lawyer, William Logan: "The trouble started when some people decided the city was too 'precious' to be called Frisco. You know what happens to a man who insists on being addressed as J. Algernon Chessworthy instead of Jim." Frisco Forever?

Who said this dept.: "The trouble with the rat race is that the rats seem to be winning." Maybe it was Richard

Opinions on Affairs of the World  
Cornwallis and ended the Revolution?

But the General was no Hannibal prior to Trenton, at Long Island, a badly managed battle. He barely got his beaten little army to Manhattan in a fog. Even a dub like William Howe maneuvered him off the island, and then captured 3,000 Continentals in a fort, also sitting ducks, while the General wrung his hands on the Jersey shore.

The happy thing about the General was that he had such stature, even then, that they couldn't cashier him, and if they could, what would they get? More amateurs, mostly phonies.

In our modern wars, Pershing and Eisenhower were hardly great strategists, though MacArthur was a good one, if a bit overconfident.

If you're looking for a bumbling start, you needn't

## SACRAMENTO SCENE

# Lawmakers Scatter After Hectic Week of Business

Capitol News Service  
SACRAMENTO—The most hectic week of the 1968 session of the legislature saw some action taken on property tax relief measures and some big reactions to the Oregon primary election.

The assembly passed and sent to the senate a bill designed to give \$190 million in property tax relief to property owners. But it passed with a lot of Democratic changes which Governor Ronald Reagan and his administration and supporters said killed any chances of the bill's being enacted into law.

The Oregon primary election found Governor Reagan built even more solidly to his non-candidate position. But, as the only Republican other than Richard M. Nixon who has received any substantial primary election votes, Reagan's position as a non-candidate for the vice presidency became even more significant.

There were some long faces in the camp of those supporting Senator Robert F. Kennedy, namely, Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh, Kennedy's campaign chairman in California. Unruh said a victory by Kennedy in California's primary election June 4 is absolutely essential to keep Kennedy alive as a "believable candidate."

The lawmakers took off for a six-day recess to cover Memorial Day, the weekend and the primary election. Although they have been in session since the first of January, almost all of the work of the legislature still remains to be accomplished. With the exception of an education bill, transferring more control over curriculum selection to the local level, nothing of major importance has been passed in the five months. The legislature must pass a budget by June 30 and is expected to complete its work by

about the end of July. This will permit members to attend the national party conventions in August. Meanwhile, the committee system in the legislature—the main system for coming to grips with the bills—has been suffering because of poor attendance. Time after time, committees operate on bare quorums, where the

Review of Major News  
On the Sacramento Scene

presence of one "no" vote spells disaster for a bill, with the result the bill is continued for a hearing a week later when the same conditions prevail.

The property tax relief bill started out as an administration measure to pass along \$155 million a year to county supervisors, permitting them to lower property tax rates. But the Democratic majority in the assembly loaded up the bill with amendments making significant changes. The amendments would take \$35 million earmarked by Governor Reagan for a reduction in income tax rates in the middle-income brackets and add it to the package. They would limit effectiveness of the bill to one year and provide the bill would not become effective unless a constitutional amendment was passed by both houses. The change in the constitution, which would let the legislature make changes in property assessment procedures, is unacceptable to Republicans. Governor Reagan and others said the Democratic action in insisting on the amendments killed any chance of the bill's being passed this year.

Another tax relief proposal slipped through the assembly with bi-partisan support. This was AB808-Veneman, which would exempt 15 per cent of busi-

ness inventories from property taxes, beginning in 1970. The 1967 legislature provided funds for this tax relief by setting aside 1/14th of the tax on banks and corporations. The governor and many legislators have agreed the business inventory tax should be abolished but replacement revenues must be found for local government. Hence the phase-out plan, where it will be reduced by 15 per cent as a starter.

A major bill on smog control finally has been approved by the assembly and sent to the senate. This was AB357-Foran, which sets up the toughest standards in the nation for control of exhaust emissions of air pollutants from automobiles. After many hours of debate, the bill was changed to provide for a hearing board to consider requests from manufacturers to be granted exemptions from the stiff requirements. However, the board could be activated only if the federal government declared California's bill was too strict and revoked the waiver which permits the state to have stronger smog control requirements for autos than any other states.

The tumult at San Francisco state college, where students have been holding the campus during much of the final exam period, has resulted in the resignation of Dr. John Summerskill as president. Summerskill had been in the news last year as students rioted and took over several buildings. At the time he declined to call in San Francisco police for fear of turning the affair into a full-fledged riot. The president was criticized by may for this lack of action but was praised by others for averting a disaster. A successor was expected to be named quickly.

## WILLIAM HOGAN

# God's Novel Among Best Of All Suspense Stories

We are all characters in "God's novel," according to the novelist, short story writer and journalist Isaac Singer, and as such are all "immortal." Whatever form this continuing experimental narrative may take, "God's novel" is certainly the greatest of all suspense stories.

Audiences for Singer's books have grown widely over the years, from "The Family Moskat" (1945) to the autobiographical "In My Father's Court" of last year. His rich, philosophic, joyous fiction is anchored in Central European Jewry with all its traditions, sufferings and humor.

Born in Poland in 1904, he attended a rabbinical seminary in Warsaw; first wrote fiction in Hebrew, then, like his late older brother I. J. Singer (The Brothers Ashkenazi) turned to the richly expressive Yiddish in

which he still writes. With a collaborator, he translates his original into English.

Singer talked about himself, his philosophy, about Hebrew and Yiddish literature during a recent seminar on Jewish Writing and Modern Experience held at the University of California at Berkeley.

Since his arrival in this country to join his brother in 1935, Isaac B. Singer has published widely in Yiddish language newspapers in New York. In translation, his stories have caught on among both Jewish and non-Jewish readers. Singer is a prolific writer. At the moment, for example, he has stories in four magazines, ranging from Playboy to the Saturday Evening Post to Commentary and the Hudson Review. During the autumn he will publish another novel and another book for children.

Yiddish, as opposed to the classic Hebrew, is the language spoken by Eastern European Jews. It is descended from German of the Middle Ages, but over centuries absorbed words and expressions from every country the Jews lived in. It is a dying language. The destruction of European Jewry during the Hitler period; the rapid integration of American Jews and the strict limitation of Jewish culture in Soviet Russia have diminished the use of Yiddish as a spoken and literary language. Even in Israel it is frowned upon. Yet in recent years, Singer noted, there has been a revival of Yiddish literary activity in the U.S. And it is being taught widely—at Berkeley, with-

in the Department of German, among other places.

In attempting to capsule his complex philosophy, Singer suggested that in part it is based on the cabala, the traditional esoteric system of interpreting the Scriptures, the belief that every word, letter, even accent contained mysteries interpretable by those who knew the secret.

Does the idea of "God's novel" fit into this? That would be his own idea, a modification of the cabala. For example, to bring this literary allusion to an extreme, he suggested, one's fear of death might be simply a fear of closing God's book before we find out if it has a happy ending.

## Mailbox

To the Editor:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the help you gave the Franchise Tax Board in publishing changes in the California Personal Income Tax Law.

Californians were faced with many new problems in preparing their returns this year and the assistance you provided by helping us explain many confusing points was a vital public service.

Not only did you help with technical matters, but you willingly gave us space as problem areas developed and we sent you additional releases at the last minute.

We especially appreciate the space you provided to announce temporary offices and extra hours at our regular offices. Californians owe you a vote of thanks for your help, and you have our deepest appreciation.

MARTIN HUFF  
Executive Officer  
Franchise Tax Board